



State Board of Education Request for
Freeway School Accreditation

Name of Requesting School:	Saint Paul's Lutheran School		
Board Date:	September 2, 2009	Grade Span:	K-8
Education Director:	Paul Marinko	Public or Private:	Private
Location Address:	1126 S. Barr Street	Enrollment:	238
City/Town:	Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802	Targeted Student Population:	Christian Students

Indiana Department of Education
Division of Educator Licensing and School Accreditation

The following executive summary has been compiled by the Division of Educator Licensing and School Accreditation for use by the Indiana State Board of Education. It includes information presented by the school during the accreditation process, potential legal standard issues, and any other information collected during the process that may impact accreditation.

Summary of Materials Presented to the Board:

1. **Identity** – “St. Paul's is owned, operated, and supported by the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The controlling body is the Voter's Assembly of the church. Voter's Assembly is held four times a year; this group is made up of all members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church who have signed the constitution. Decisions about the school and its needs are made by this body and are based on input and recommendations of the school board and the principal.”

“St. Paul's Lutheran School serves Lutherans, families of all denominations, and children with no religious affiliation listed. St. Paul's total enrollment ranks about sixth among nineteen Lutheran schools in Northeast Indiana with a full K-8 program.”

2. **Attendance** – “St. Paul's will collect and report attendance data to show progress toward achieving over ninety percent attendance.”
3. **Graduation** – Not Applicable
4. **Benchmarks** – “St. Paul's teachers and administrators will review ISTEP reading and mathematics scores of students seeking to transfer to the school; exit test scores will show growth and development. The administration will administer the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP/NWEA) each spring and have a discussion with parents, board members, and teachers about the curriculum, instructional strategies and methods, and learning styles.”

“Efforts have been made by Northwest Education Association to align and update the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP/NWEA) with Indiana Academic Standards (See Appendix D; See Appendix E).”

5. **Staffing** –“St. Paul's Lutheran School fills its teaching positions with highly-qualified teachers by virtue of a combination of academic degrees, teacher certification, experience, and demonstrated ability to teach.”

“Hiring, retaining, and developing capable faculty is paramount to fulfilling the obligations and responsibilities of the Freeway contract. Quantitative and qualitative teacher evaluation data will contribute to the metrics used to make decisions in order to meet the terms of this petition. The administration is responsible to assess teacher performance and to report teacher evaluation data to the Board of Elementary Education.”

Waiver Requests:

- IC 20-20-5 Textbooks:

“Textbook Adoption Instructional materials suitable for a Lutheran school are not found on typical state adoption lists. The Lutheran school curriculum requires specific textbooks and materials that supplement values education and parochial objectives. In order to assure quality control, the St. Paul's Board of Elementary Education adopts curriculum materials on an annual rotation calendar. The principal in conjunction with curriculum committees involving teachers, board members, and parents will make decisions related to adoption. Numerous resources are published by secular or Lutheran-based companies. Lutheran education requires significant quantities of enrichment materials that are consistent with the St. Paul's curriculum guide in terms of scope and sequence.”

- IC 20-30-5-5 Morals instruction,
- IC 20-30-5-9 Hygiene Instruction,
- IC 20-30-5-11 Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, prescription drugs, and controlled substances instruction:

“The Lutheran objectives, goals, and curriculum on catechesis and Bible are well defined and reviewed by ordained Lutheran pastors. Therefore, St. Paul's requests suspension of rules IC 20-305-8, IC 20-30-5-9, and IC 20-30-5-11 that address health, safety, and substance abuse education. These issues are addressed in this petition under the identification of strategies for the curriculum to address issues related to: character education, hygiene, alcohol, drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, honesty, respect, abstinence, and restraint.”

- 511 IAC 6.1-5.1 Curriculum Alignment:

“St. Paul's teachers, under the direction of Lutheran education leaders, developed the curriculum that includes a sequence of goals and objectives that are measured regularly in the classroom. The board has adopted the timeline that covers historic events adequately in kindergarten through grade eight. While these strategies are effective, they are not specifically aligned with state standards.”

Issues:

- Teacher Licensing
- Curriculum Alignment

Recommendations: Five Year Freeway Accreditation

Rationale: The Freeway legislation does not require a non-public school to employ licensed teachers. After discussions with school officials, staff licensing meets typical licensing in other Freeway schools; additionally, while not strictly aligned with state standards, the curriculum is on balance with other Freeway schools.